

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 19, 2009 has been carefully considered. Within that Office Action, claims 1-16 and 25 were allowed, claim 17 was rejected, and claims 26-27 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome any outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, rejection and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Applicants' dependent claim 28 was also pending in the application, but was not discussed in the Office Action.) By this response, Applicants have amended claim 17. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the August 19, 2009 Office Action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,115,031) in view of Mine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,248) in further view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,431,982) in further view of Tanskanen (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,947). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Just prior to the August 19, 2009 Office Action, on or about August 13, 2009, Examiner Ross telephoned the undersigned to inform Applicants that he believed that claims 17 and 26-28 would be allowable over the above cited references if the Applicant were to consent to amend independent claim 17 to further include limitations as set forth in claim 1 wherein each terminal device display device displays either the first game screen image or the second game screen image, each having different extents of a field of view of the game space depending on a predetermined handicap associated with the particular game character that is being controlled at the terminal device (i.e., that different extents of a field of view of the game space are displayed depending on a predetermined handicap assigned to a player associated with that game character)

and that a full-extent field of view of the game space included the entire playable gamespace. The Examiner also indicated that the term “narrow-extent field of view” should be clarified with respect to the size of a viewable portion of the playable game space. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s telephone discussion and the Examiner’s acknowledgment in the August 19, 2009 Office Action that claims 1-16 and 25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants have amended claim 17 accordingly and respectfully submit that claim 17, as amended herein, is patentably distinct over the cited references for at least the reasons as previously set forth in the Office Action with respect to independent claim 1. It is also submitted that dependent claims 26-28, being dependent from claim 17, are patentably distinct over the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to independent claim 1.

Applicants believe the amendments herein should take care of all of the various objections and rejections to the form and format of the claims that the Examiner has set forth. However, should the Examiner believe that further claim amendments are necessary or desirable, he is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss same and reach agreement.

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicants’ claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and indicate the acknowledgment of the USPTO of the same by checking the appropriate box on the next PTOL-326 Office Action Summary form.

As all objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed by the present Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative, using the telephone number listed below the signature line, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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